

Know Your Rights



The Department of Police Accountability

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415.241.7711

<https://sfgov/dpa>



Consensual

Police have a right to approach anyone at anytime.

You do not have to speak to an officer who approaches you.

Ask the officer "Am I free to go?"
If "YES," then you MAY walk away.

"NO," then your encounter with the police officer is a detention.

Pat Search

If an officer reasonably believes you are armed and dangerous, they may pat search you by feeling the outer layers of your clothing.

An officer may go into your pockets if they feel what is clearly a weapon.

SFPD is required to have an SFPD officer of your preferred gender conduct the pat search unless there is a life and death situation.

INTERACTIONS WITH POLICE

Scan this QR Code
using your cell phone
camera to read more
about SF DGO 7.01.



Detention

If you are detained, an officer may only hold you long enough to determine if you are involved in criminal activity or traffic infractions.

If an officer cannot confirm their suspicions, you must be released.

Arrest

If you are detained and NOT released, you are under arrest.

In San Francisco, youth have a right under most circumstances to consult with the on call juvenile attorney at the Public Attorney's office. This right cannot be waived.

After the attorney consultation, the youth can request that a responsible adult to be present during questioning.

What if I am most comfortable speaking another language?

- You should ask for an interpreter.
- You have the right to talk to the officer in your own language (this includes American Sign Language and Hard of Hearing individuals).

Scan QR Code using your cell phone camera to read more about youth rights.



When can I record the police when they are interacting with me?

Youth are allowed :

- To record an officer as long as they are not interfering with the officer's duties.
- When possible, have someone else record the interaction.

Y O U T H R I G H T S

When can I record the police when they are interacting with someone else?

Youth have the right to:

- Observe stops, detentions, arrests.
- Overhear conversations.
- Ask questions.
- Record (video or audio) contacts involving officers. You must remain at a safe distance and comply if an officer asks you to move back.

Youth Miranda Rights

Miranda Rights protect you during police questioning. Police are required to tell you:

"You have the right to remain silent, anything you say can be used against you. You have the right to have an attorney present during any police interrogation, and the right to an attorney free of charge if you cannot afford one."

Useful Resources

- SF DPA: (415) 241-7711
- Asian Law Caucus: (415) 896-1701
- Legal Services for Children (415) 863-3762
- SF Public Defender's Office: (415) 753-7601
- S.F. Immigrant Legal Education Network (415) 200-1548
- Raid Rapid Response: (415) 200-1548